

REMARKS

The Examiners' time and cooperation in their interview of Applicant's attorney on October 6, 2003 is, of course, appreciated.

New claim 20 now replaces claim 1 as one of the two independent claims in this application.

Claim 20 now clearly defines the relationship between the upper tapered portion and lower portion of each lateral side as intersecting each other in a range greater than 0° and less than 15°. As discussed at the above-mentioned interview, none of the prior art references of record, and clearly not the Examiner's primary reference to Yoshida et al. and Landers, disclose this construction which is positively defined in new claim 20.

Claim 20 corresponds substantially, but not identically, to claim 20 discussed at the above-mentioned interview. More specifically, other than a minor correction on line 17 to correct the antecedent basis, the final paragraph of claim 20 discussed at the above-mentioned interview has been deleted because, quite frankly, it is inaccurate.

More specifically, the final paragraph of claim 20 discussed at the above-mentioned interview requires that the channels in adjacent blocks register with each other. That, however, is usually not the case with Applicant's invention.

However, this aspect of claim 20 does not in any way affect the allowability of claim 20 now submitted. More specifically, the construction of registering channels for draining water from the block is clearly shown in the Examiner's primary reference to Landers. As such, the inclusion of this limitation has absolutely no effect on the allowability of claim 20 now submitted. Indeed, as discussed at the above-mentioned interview, the provision of rainwater channels through the block which registers with adjacent blocks is old and well known. As such, patentability cannot depend on this feature.

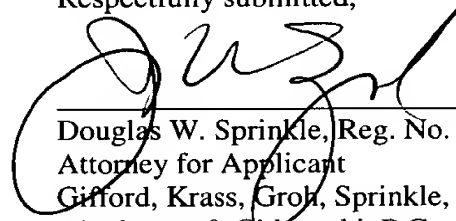
New claim 21 is also submitted for consideration and allowance at this time. New claim 21 corresponds exactly to claim 20 except that the requirement of the rainwater drainage channels has been deleted as an element from this claim. This, however, has no effect on the allowability of new claim 21 over the prior art of record.

More specifically, as with claim 20, claim 21 clearly defines the relationship between the upper tapered portion and lower portion of each lateral side of the paving block and this construction, as agreed at the above-mentioned interview, is simply not shown in the prior art of record. Similarly, the prior art clearly shows the provision of rainwater drainage channel, e.g. see the Examiner's primary reference to Landers, so that the recitation of the rainwater drainage channels has no effect upon the allowability of new claim 21.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 20 and 21 patentably define Applicant's invention over the prior art references of record and are, therefore, allowable. All remaining claims in this application have been amended to either depend from claim 20 or have been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for formal allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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